

East Road Cambridge 1897 to 1990: a Scrapbook

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Many of these stories were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014. They are supplemented by some selections 'From our Old Files' published in the Cambridge Independent Press and other notes.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

1897 05 20

East Road library, p2

1897 05 26

East Road reading room, p3

1897 06 02

East Road library, p2

1897 08 17

East Road reading room, p2

1897 08 19

East Road reading room, p2 *

1897 08 21

For several years Cambridge has been in a state of chronic poverty. With hardly a sou in the bank – not sufficient to meet tradesmen's bill as they become due - the financial outlook has been far from cheering to the ratepayer. A farthing rate to retain East Road Reading Room is denied, yet in the next breath the modest sum of £21,000 is voted for street improvements. And again there is the front of the Guildhall. No sane person can defend the retention of a monstrosity like that and if it is not to be retained it must be replaced and care must be taken that the new building is worthy of the town

1897 08 25

East Rad library, p2

1897 11 27

Sir. The Reading Room on East Road, Cambridge will be re-opened on Monday next, from six till half-past nine o'clock. Everything has been done to make the room as efficient and comfortable as possible, new gas fittings and furniture provided and the floor has been covered throughout with linoleum. By the liberality of the Mayor about one hundred volumes of useful works of reference, biography and travel will be placed upon the open shelves. There will be supplied 15 daily newspapers and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance and an appreciable use made of the literature supplied - John Pink, Librarian

1897 11 30

Once again the good folk of Barnwell are in possession of their reading-room. This time improvements have been carried out and the workers around East Road will not only have a convenient room, but also an attractive and comfortable one. The room is the same as of yore, and the exterior is as ugly as ever, but inside everything has been re-painted and varnished, & incandescent lights have replaced the old-fashioned flickering gas jet. Although Mr John Pink, the borough librarian, opposed the re-opening, since the decision of the Council to again provide facilities for the thoughtful working men of Barnwell he has done his utmost to ensure they are as full and liberal as possible

1898 07 11

Messrs Green, Moyes and Wisbey attended the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, and offered by auction several beerhouses. The Lion and Lamb at Denver sold for £765. The Queen's Head at Hilgay realised £510. Lot three was the freehold beer house known as the Volunteer, Mildenhall which, together with a cottage, realised £710. The Swan beerhouse Isleham realised £460. The last lot was the fully licensed freehold public house in East Road, Cambridge known by the sign of the Red Lion. The bidding started at £600, and ultimately reached £975 at which figure it was disposed of. The prices realised are considered very satisfactory by the vendors.

1898 09 05

Awful was the fate of an aged women residing in East Road Cambridge, on Saturday night. Her body was found scorched, blackened and blistered in her burning house. Every article of clothing was burned, and not a hair remained on her head. Those who saw it were sickened at the uncanny sight. As quickly as possible she was carried to a costermonger's barrow and covered up with the first things that came to hand, after which she was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital. The fire brigade was hampered as the telegraph wires are set so low in that part of the town that it is impossible to run the fire escape along without catching the wires and causing not only damage but delay. In this instance the escape was delayed by catching the wires in Burleigh St

1898

Fanny Elizabeth Laxton, an unfortunate, was charged with wilfully breaking two panes of glass at the Three Compasses, East Road Cambridge, doing damage to the amount of one shilling and with refusing to quit that house. She was also charged with being drunk. For breaking the window she was sent to prison for a month with hard labour, and for refusing to quit two weeks with hard labour. Prisoner was removed to the cells vowing vengeance. As she left the dock to the regions below her voice could still be heard crying, "You ought to wear a Salvation Army bonnet, that you ought"

1898 09 16

This morning shows a big blank in the row of houses in Church End, Cottenham. A little after before eight o'clock some children called Mrs Smith and told her that a boy was setting a fire near her husband's stacks. Very quickly the stacks, outbuildings, barn and furniture were devoured. In the buildings were two horses and two pigs, which it was impossible to save, and they were roasted alive. The burning flesh could be smelled a long way down the Street. On went the fire to the adjoining premises, "The Jolly Millers" inn. In a back room lay Mr Thomas Legge, the veteran postman, fast asleep, and he was carried out of harm's way just in the nick of time. That ancient, lumbering instrument known as the Cottenham fire engine was hauled out from among the cobwebs and after a lengthy leakage it did its best to sprout the limited supply of water on the flames
Woman burnt to death, East Road, p3

1898 10 05

The annual report of the Cambridge public Free Library has been issued. Under competent management and the able direction of Mr Pink, it has continuously added to its resources. It is now as well equipped as anyone could desire. It has a reference library and in the Shakespeare and dramatic collections a special features of great interest and real value. Moreover there is the branch library at Mill road with 6,600 volumes and during the past year reading rooms have been opened at East road and Castle end. The people who enjoy these facilities of access to the best literature may well be envied by those who do not

1899 02 16

Mr Slingsby drew the attention of Cambridge council to the want of public conveniences. He thought the present state of affairs was a disgrace and a scandal to this civilised and intellectual town. They should consider underground lavatories for males and females at Hyde Park Corner (under the shelter), Market Hill (under the Conduit) & at the junction of East Road and Newmarket Road

1899 03 09

East Road fire, rear Reading Room, p3

1899 09 22

During the tempestuous weather a hot pea stall, belonging to James Gerald, of Wilton terrace, East Road, Cambridge, which had been erected at the corner of Garlic Row in readiness for Stourbridge horse fair, was blown away bodily and carried by the boisterous wind across the road on to a piece of land forty yards away, used by Mr Robert Lee as a market garden. Another booth belonging to David Odell was also overthrown by the storm.

1899 11 16

East Road schools, p3

1900 05 09

Sir – As an old user of the East Road Reading Room, Cambridge may I complain of the insufficient supply of newspapers there. Morning newspapers are entirely absent, excepting one a day old. I received a severe shock some time ago when I founded posted up a copy of the “Times” newspaper, but found it was an old copy. In the old days we were allowed the “Times”. The reading matter is so seriously curtailed as to prevent one from arriving at a consensus of opinion; this tending to keep in darkness a not highly favoured part of the town – A. Clark, Walnut Tree Lane

1900 07 19

East Road widening, p3

1900 09 04

Those who now assemble to witness the ancient ceremony of proclaiming Stourbridge Fair can guess to what extent its glory has departed. The fair has dwindled down to almost the level of the village feast. At one time business and pleasure stalls extended from the railway bridge to East Road and down to the river’s edge on Stourbridge common. The custom of proclaiming the different portions of the fair is still religiously observed – the leather fair, the hop fair, the wood fair and so on, when no such exist or are likely to be revived. The Toll Collector broke down a portion of the fence dividing Newmarket road from what was in years gone by part of the fairground, and hurled the portion of broken fence on to the now cultivated ground thereby signifying the right of the Corporation to that ground for six weeks. This concluded the ceremony and the Mayor and town officers departed.

1900 11 22

The Cambridge Coroner opened an enquiry at the Blackbirds public house, East Road, Cambridge into the circumstances of the death of an East Road shopkeeper and her three children who were found lying on the bed in their front upstairs room with their throats cut. She had appeared perfectly sane and was reported not to have financial problems but was very much troubled about her husband leaving her. She was very fond of her children and was a good mother. A lodger said he had come downstairs but found no breakfast ready. He had knocked on her door and got no answer. He had looked into the room, seen the bodies and sent for the police.

1901 05 13

While playing about on East Road, Cambridge, a two-year-old child was knocked down by a tram horse and run over by the vehicles, sustaining such injuries that she succumbed shortly after. The tram driver said that when he first saw the child she was about a yard from his tram. He applied his brake immediately but it was impossible to stop the heavy car before reaching her. The wheel went over her thigh and she was fearfully mangled about her limbs and lower body

1902 09 06

The Mayor of Cambridge, Alderman Kett made a tour of sixteen schools for the purpose of distributing Coronation medals to the infant scholars. It had been suggested that they should also be given a tea in the tents on Parker’s Piece but it was felt that little mites of four could hardly be expected to walk to and from the Piece and it was more advisable to provide tea for them at the various schoolrooms. At East Road school tea had to be provided for 250 infants and the cutting up of the large quantity of bread and cake entailed several hours for work for the teachers.

1902 10 02

In the centre of Cambridge a man will pay any price in reason for the tobacco which appeals most to his palate. But in other quarters, such as Mill Road where the small shopkeeper thrives and people like a lot for their money a great quantity of cigarette packets containing showy photographs and alluring coupons have been sold. Mr Banyard of East Road, Cambridge says customers gave over their regular

brands for those with the coupons but the demand was chiefly in cheap cigarettes. But Cambridge undergraduates have not descended to packs of Tabs, or even to tu-penny-ha'-penny Guinea Gold.

1903 04 06c

A licensed refreshment house keeper of East Road, Cambridge, was summonsed for keeping his premises open during prohibited hours. P.C. Symonds said he saw a man eating something from a paper outside the shop after 11 o'clock. He told the owner he had seen a man eating fish, but the defendant said it was potatoes. The man had come in while he was sweeping the shop out and his wife served him. The policeman was in plain clothes and never said he was a policeman. The magistrates recorded a conviction, but there was no further penalty

1905 02 14

Cambridge Women's Temperance Association have acquired the tenancy of an East Road property formerly known as the Barnwell Coffee Palace which they have transformed into 'The White Ribbon', a well-conducted temperance establishment at which palatable food and clean lodgings can be obtained at moderate prices. The position of the building in one of the poorer districts has led to some apprehension but care is to be taken to ensure that the frequenters of the establishment are somewhat more select than formerly. It is not intended for the tramp class but for young people who require lodgings. It contains 16 bedrooms with a tastefully-furnished sitting room 05 02 14a

1907 01 02

A warm well-lighted room in St Paul's Institute New Town was opened as a reading room. There was a collection of current literature ready for the first arrivals who drew chairs to the tables and took advantage of the comfort and facilities provided. The Free Library was one of the most popular institutions in Cambridge, ten years ago a branch was established at Mill Road with other reading rooms at Castle End and East Road. 07 01 02 & 2a

1908 06 05

Quite recently, the Burlington Press, which for a number of years carried on business in East Road, has removed to larger premises at Foxton. Dr Briggs, the founder of the business as an adjunct of the University Correspondence College entertained the entire staff to dinner inside the works and proposed a toast of 'Success to the University Tutorial Press'. CWN 08 06 05 p6

1909 01 15

On Friday night a man died in an East Road Lodging House and the landlady was naturally anxious to relieve her house of the body at the earliest moment. She had no knowledge of the man's relatives and a 'parish burial' was ordered. The undertaker said she had wanted to put the body in the yard covered up with clothes but he had removed it at his own expense. But relatives complained that the coffin was too small and the body laid on bare wood with the feet sticking to the pitch. All there was to cover him was a piece of thin stuff which did not meet in the middle. CWN 09 01 15

1909 01 17

The staff and scholars of the Cambridge and County School for Girls have left the unpretentious and inconvenient building in East Road and are safely ensconced in a brand new school built on the most scientific lines and equipped with everything the modern educational establishment requires. It is approached by a drive from Collier Road and surrounded by ample grounds. CWN 09 09 17

1909 12 31

The Costermongers Boxing Day Marathon race was run between East Road and Bottisham and back. It is open to men who earn their living by hawking and the fact that 17 came forward with their barrows in such unfavourable conditions says a good deal for their hardiness. Soon mud began to bespatter the runners. Tom Nunn took the lead in the outward journey but was finally beaten by Sam George. CWN 09 12 31

1919 02 04

Licencing – Fox & Duck South St, White Horse Coronation St, Prince of Wales Church St, George IV East Road, Cardinal's Cap Guildhall Place, Borough Boys Northampton St, & others – 19 02 04e & f

1910 04 29

A Willingham labourer was charged with stealing £40 in gold from his mother. His parents had gone to work leaving him alone in the house and the money under the mattress of the bed. The neighbour saw the lad with a handful of gold and a search revealed it had gone. Police discovered he had been showing a lot of gold in a public house at Longstanton before leaving for Cambridge by train. When arrested at the Compasses lodging house in East Road he said "They should not leave the money lying about in the house. I told her I should do her one. She always scrapped the last penny out of me and is always cadging money of me" 10 04 29c

1910 08 12

A new road between Rock Estate and Romsey Town would greatly improve communication between these largely populated and widely-separated districts, Mr W.P. Fison suggests. Rustat Road, which is a private road belonging to Jesus College could be continued until it cuts into Marmora Road. It would have to cross some allotments and a farm with a bridge over the railway line. There should also be a new road from East Road through Beche Road over a bridge into Old Chesterton. Both would provide work for the numbers of unemployed men in Cambridge 10 08 12e

1910 10 28

The National Telephone Company sought to recover rent for a telephone installed at the premises of Herbert Quinsee cycle and motor engineer, East Road. Quinsee said he'd wanted to be cut off immediately it was installed in 1909. It had been fixed in his workshop, whereas he'd asked for it in the showroom. The company said they would put on extra bells, which he would have to pay for. He could not take the apparatus down because it was not his property but as it was not removed people rang him up. 10 10 28e

1910 12 23

Two confectioners in East Road were fined for having penny-in-the-slot machines on their premises. When a penny was placed in the slot three balls came into play. By pulling a small lever the ball was shot around the machine and if it went into a cup the player received a ticket for groceries. There were hundreds of other machines in use in places where players got beer or tobacco. But these were aimed at children. Now the use of all such machines should cease 10 12 23a

1911 03 10

A collision occurred between a motor van belonging to Messrs Lever of the Port Sunlight Soap Company and a motor car (CE 1037), at the junction of East Road and Newmarket Road. The back wheel of the motor car struck the back part of the van with the result that the front axle and steering gear were bent and the speedometer damaged. A spoke was broken from the nearside back wheel and a bolt smashed out of the hub of the wheel of the motor car. Fortunately the damage done was not very serious and no personal injuries were sustained. 11 03 10c

1911 05 12

George IV pub, East Road theft – 11 05 12

1911 07 28

A slight outbreak of fire occurred at the Picture Palace, East Road. The heat during the day had been intense and the lantern operator, Harry Pink, became a little faint and accidentally knocked a small piece of film on to the lantern, the heat igniting it. The film flared up and Pink quickly turned off the light, pulled down the safety shutters of the box, which is a fire-proof structure, and jumped out. The film soon burnt out and the audience, consisting of 37 children and three adults, walked out without any panic 11 07 28d

1911 12 22

During the week 274 persons have been supplied by the Mayor's soup kitchen and 73 gallons of soup, nine lbs of dripping and six stone of bread have been distributed. Meat, bones etc have been received from Mr W. Robinson of Bene't Street and other butchers, while G.H. French of East Road has given pea flour and Mr Wallis of Haslingfield, swedes. The sale of bone has realised one shilling and tenpence. The mayor has promised to distribute oranges today and Mrs Prior, Furniss Lodge, has kindly promised 150 mince pies. 11 12 22a

1911 12 29

Two Fen Ditton labourers were charged with stealing a lead pump. John Thornton of Quy Water Farm said it had been taken from his yard. He went to a marine store dealer's on East Road and there saw the pump cut up in lengths. The dealer said he'd bought it from a man who said it was of no more use. The accused admitted the theft but claimed they'd been drunk at the time and dare not take it back. They recompensed the farmer for its loss. 11 12 29a

1912 03 29

Amond Cannell, gamekeeper of Trumpington, told the court he had set three iron rat traps in a field near the road. When he returned next morning they had gone. Det-Serg Marsh went to the Butcher's Arms lodging house and asked two men how they accounted for hawking rat traps on East Road the previous day. They claimed to have bought them from a man near the Catholic Church for threepence. They were sent to gaol for a month. 12 03 29a

1912 07 26

Mr Lloyd ex-manager, pianist and vocalist of the East Road Picture Palace told the court that Mr Hawkins had informed him he would close it for a month but that he should move to a new hall in Herne Bay. But he did not give notice or fill in the month as promised. Mr Hawkins, the proprietor of this and other halls in Cambridge, said he had tried to find Lloyd work and he'd be pleased for him to open at the Picture Palace again on August Bank Holiday Monday. Lloyd was a very able and competent man and it was astonishing he should cut his throat in this way. The case was dismissed. 12 07 26n

1912 07 26

Kirtling had three public houses, the Beehive, Queen's Head and the Red Lion with a licensed house in the hamlet of Upend nearly a mile away. Dr Wilkins had his surgery at the Beehive and some of his patients had their meals there, Methodist preachers left their horses there – although most now cycle. It was the most convenient for the men visiting Perrin's smithy and the allotments. All the principal people of the village – apart from the parson – had signed a memorial to keep it, licensing magistrates were told. Also : Licensing: Steeple Morden Hill House, Cherry Hinton Russian Arms, Swavesey Red Lion, Cambridge: Duke of Gloucester Prospect Row, Rose & Crown & Windmill in Russell St, Danish Flag in Fitzroy St, Lamb in Guildhall St (details), Compasses in East Road 12 07 26 o&p #

1913 01 03

Steam roller breaks through road at corner Brook Street & East Road, several hours for it to be extracted

1913 01 10

Steam roller in hole, East Road

1913 03 14

Cambridge pubs – Newmarket Road - Bird Bolt; East Road, Shakespeare; Norwich Street – Norwich Arms; Cambridge Place – Three Pigeons; Fitzroy Street – Old English Gentleman adjoined Wesson's Brewery and had been in the Wesson family for 70 years. The accommodation was good, the rooms were spacious, lofty and airy. It had a good bottle and jug department, a good bar, billiard room, smoke room, cellar and bedroom accommodation.

1913 03 14

Lacons brewers applied for the renewal of the licence for the Turnstile on East Road. This was a small cottage before it became a licensed house. It had been in the same family for over 40 years and the tenant, James Hobbs was anxious to continue. The pub was near the tram terminus and when people were waiting for the trams they did so in his house. He got a good lot of customers and sold a good deal of wine. 13 03 14 p8 CIP

1913 06 27

Mrs Elizabeth Pont and her late husband were familiar figures at fairs and feasts for miles around where their stall of feast rock etc was always to be found. For over 40 years she took her stall on Histon village green at exactly the same place where her goods were always sought by a large number of visitors 13 06 27 p12

1913 10 24

The idea of growing tobacco in England seems absurd. But at Elveden there are acres of healthy tobacco plants with leaves large enough to cover a rabbit and several sheds filled with yellow-coloured leaves. Messrs J.S. Banyard of East Road has purchased the entire crop of 25 acres grown by Lord Iveagh and have it made up both as pipe tobacco and in cigarettes. The cigarettes are similar to Virginia but have a slight Havana flavour.

1913 12 26

Territorials to make Drill Hall East Road in Technical Institute

1914 02 06

After negotiations lasting 18 months work has finally started on digging the foundations of the new Drill Hall and miniature rifle range on the site of the Technical Institute in East Road. It will have offices for the three Territorial units, stores for the large quantity of mobilisation equipment now needed, lecture rooms and messes. The drill hall will be the largest allowed and the range will allow a good number of targets to be used simultaneously. 14 02 06j

1914 02 13

Cambridge licenses – Duke of Gloucester Prospect Row, Rose and Crown & Windmill in Russell St, Danish Flag in Fitzroy St, Compasses on East Rd have closed; are 233 licensed for sale intoxicating liquor on premises and 36 off – 14 02 13, a

1914 02 13

Effects to be Sold.—Within a week, the street tramway cars which had been a feature of Cambridge for 30 years will have ceased to run. Auctioneers have received instructions from the Official Receiver to sell the whole of the effects of the Cambridge Street Tramways Company, which has been compulsorily wound up on the application of the Cambridge Corporation. The sale will take place at the Company's headquarters, East Road, at noon on Friday next. On inquiry yesterday a Press representative was informed that the date on which the trams will cease to run will be announced within a few days, but it is probable that Wednesday next will be the last day of running. The effects for sale include 24 draught horses, 8 tramway cars (4ft. gauge), including six-double-deck cars to carry 18 persons inside, and 22 to 25 outside, two single-deck cars to carry 18 persons inside, 10 sets of harness, a Crossley 2 h.p. engine and oat-crushing machines etc. 14 02 13 CIPof

1914 04 24

King's Visit. — Six thousand Cambridge schoolchildren, with flags gaily flying, will next Thursday line the Cambridge streets and with hearty voices join their elders in bidding welcome to their King. Although the King's visit is to be regarded as one specially made to the Leys School, the townspeople are naturally taking a keen interest in the event. His Majesty will motor from Newmarket and is due to arrive at the Leys at 11 a.m. It is probable he will reach the outskirts a few minutes before that hour and will proceed to the school via Newmarket Road, East Road, Lensfield Road and Trumpington Road. Upon arrival at the school, the King will be received by a guard of honour consisting of members of the school's Junior Officers' Training Corps and met by Dr. Barber, the headmaster and

members of the governing body He will then be conducted to the chapel to view the memorial erected to the memory of the Old Leysians who fell in the South African War. Following this he will proceed to the large hall and receive an address of welcome. Then His Majesty will inspect the gymnasium, swimming baths, science buildings, etc. In accordance with a request made by the Mayor of Cambridge (Mr. J. A. Sturton), the royal car will be slowed down when passing the junction of Newmarket Road and East Road. This is perhaps, the most convenient spot for the schoolchildren to assemble and they will line up on either side. # c.02 # c.36.5 – 1914 04 24 CIPof

1914 05 01

Appeals for people to decorate their houses along the King's route to the Leys School were effective. Along Newmarket Road and East Road houses vary in size but an elaborate display of flags and bunting had been arranged. The favourite plan was a Union Jack hung from the bedroom window or bunting arranged along the window ledges, busin3esses were tastefully embellished while scores of streamers were hung across the road with a tremendous banner inscribed 'Cambridge Working Men's Club'. Many of the side streets made good displays 14 05 01e

1914 05 08

The Provincial Motor Cab Co. Ltd. (In liquidation). The Receiver is authorised to receive tenders for the business of Motor Cab and Automobile Garage Proprietors recently carried on by the Provincial Motor Cab Company Ltd at is garage on East Road and for the cabs, tools, plant and accessories of a Motor Cab Garage therein. The number of cabs at the garage is nine, of which eight are in use. – Notice. 14 05 08f

1914 06 26

There is no lodging house accommodation for women only in Cambridge. Two licensed houses cater for only the painted or vagrant classes. There is a need for some place to which respectable women and girls in need of a night's lodgings could go. Formerly they were taken at the White Ribbon Coffee Tavern on East Road but this has stopped. Now the council have purchased a house for the purpose and plans for conversion are underway 14 06 26 p4

1914 07 31

Ortona monopoly – no buses East Road *

1914 11 06

The new Territorial Forces headquarters in East Road are nearly completed and have been occupied by troops training in Cambridge. But the formal opening has been postponed. It stands on the site of the Technical Schools which have been adapted and added to and includes a spacious drill hall and miniature rifle range abutting on to Adam and Eve Row. The Quartermaster's stores include a wooden gallery for use as a saddlery store for the Yeomanry.

1914 12 11

Soldiers billeted at Melbourne Place School would move to the hutments on Cherryhinton Road shortly but others have arrived and could take their place The Drill Hall in East Road and the Girls' County School are already overcrowded. It would mean that East Road and King Street Schools would no longer be required. The military would pay £400, about one-tenth of the cost of billeting. But billeting would relieve the hardship of lodging house keepers now fewer undergraduates were studying at university.

1918 02 06

Communal Dinners. — Young children enjoy midday meals at the East Road schools now. The meals, which were started on January 14, are supplied by the Fitzroy Street communal kitchen, and each child pays a small sum per week for five dinners. When the school was first started there were only 23 children who availed themselves of the opportunity of taking their dinner at the school, but now the number has increased to about 40. The dinner is served in a room which was formerly the

baby room of the old school, but which for a number of years has been used as a storeroom. The room has been cleaned, distempered and decorated, and presents quite a cheery appearance 18 02 06c

1919 04 09

John Rayment, Nelson St & East Road, rag and metal merchant – advert showing premises – 19 04 09b, 19 04 30e

1919 11 19

F. Winton Smith's new food factory, Wellington House, East Road – detailed feature article – 19 11 19a ; formally opened – 19 11 26b # c.27

1920 03 10

Licensing sessions: refer East Road : Turnstile. George IV, Smith & Wheelwright Arms, King St: Boot; Gwydir St: Dewdrop; Newnham: Tally Ho; Chesterton: Indian Chief; Cherry Hinton Hopbine; Renew St Andrew's St: Queen's Arms – 20 03 10b

1920 03 06

Licensing renewals: Turnstile, Newmarket Rd; George IV East Rd; Queen's Arms, St Andrew's Street; Smith and Wheelwrights Arms, East Rd; Boot, King St; Dewdrop, Gwydir St; Tally Ho; Indian Chief, Chesterton

1920 07 10

Public houses considered for closure – Victoria, Barrington; Guilden Morden Pig & Whistle, Cherry Hinton Hopbine, Castle Camps George & Dragon, Linton Axe & Saw, King Street Boot, Chesterton High Street Indian Chief, Newnham Road Tally Ho, East Road Turnstile, Gwydir Street Dew Drop #

1925 01 10

The final contingent of happy kiddies crowded into the Drill Hall, East Road and emulated the example set by their predecessors. The clamour of half a thousand happy young lungs and energetic tongues was present throughout the proceedings. Cheery children of all ages participated in the scenes of revelry, four-year old toddlers giving utterance to their gratification with gurgles of joy as sincere as the shouts of the elder children were loud.

1925 05 21

Two shopkeepers occupying adjacent premises in East Road, Cambridge, appeared before magistrates. Frederick Peak, a wholesale confectioner said a big Smith's van pulled up outside his premises to deliver some tins of potato chips. His neighbour came and complained about the van standing near her door. He was carrying ten tins of chips, stacked as high as his chin, when she put up both her hands and deliberately knocked them from his arms. Two lids came off and the contents were spilled. On another occasion she threw soapy water on him from an upstairs window.

1926 01 16

There were lively scenes in East Road, Cambridge, when another "sale" of goods distrained by the Ouse Drainage Board for the non-payment of rates was to have taken place. A "jazz band" quickly attracted a crowd to the scene and the sight of 30 men attired in top hats, paper hats etc, caused considerable amusement. Some had toy trumpets, some hunting horns, some penny whistles while a few motor hooters added to the "harmony". Attempts to conduct the sale were drowned in a general uproar and all the lots were withdrawn.

1

1926 03 12

A Cambridge school girl died of small-pox at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Mill Road and as a result the East Road Boys', Girls' and Infants' Schools have been closed for at least a week for disinfection. The Medical Officer strongly advises people to get vaccinated. The last outbreak occurred in 1921 when a man was affected. There was also an isolated outbreak in 1919

1926 04 26

An inquiry was held into the provision of two underground public conveniences at the junction of Milton and Chesterton and Newmarket and East Roads where there would be an island in the middle of the road. The Inspector asked whether they had designed the roof to carry the weight of a heavy motor lorry; it would be a very simple matter for a lorry to jump a kerb on a foggy night as had happened at Southend when people had been injured. He also raised the question of a convenience for women and the Mayor said the matter had been very carefully considered by the committee who were anxious to get on with the work as quickly as possible.

1926 07 17

Trade at the George the Fourth public house in East Road, a beer drinking, working-class residential neighbourhood, had been carried on for years without complaint. There were about 20 persons living there every night of whom 16 had been there from one to 12 years; one old man, aged 83, had been living there for ten. Housing conditions in Cambridge are very bad, there were 700 or 800 applications for houses at the present time. It was difficult to see what was going to happen to these people if the license was withdrawn and the pub closed down 1926 07 17c

1926 09 16

Sir – Will the Transport Authority please have a look at Mill Road junction with East Road, Cambridge. Corners are being rounded off and visibility increased in many parts but at this extremely busy point efforts seem to have been multiplied to prevent a safe flow of traffic. The large block of lavatories and the telephone kiosk form nuclei for masses of trees, shrubs and large flowering plants which entirely obstruct the view. Everyone enjoys greenery and colour, but in this instance they are in the wrong place, without doubt, and call for removal – “Safety First”

1929 01 04

Zion Baptist Church, East Road, Cambridge was opened on January 1st 1879 and nothing has been done to the fabric for several years. Now a scheme has begun for renovating and repairing the church. Mr Dunwell recalled his former Sunday school fellows: “The boys were ten times worse than they are today. The teachers used to read to them from ‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin’ which often made them cry, but did their part in helping to build up character. Today there were not so many willing to work among the children”

1929 10 01c

Cambridge Town Council were asked to pay a Landbeach smallholder for the loss of his horse. It had slipped on the surface of East Road after a shower, and was killed. The Corporation declined to accept responsibility but it was suggested that a subscription list should be opened to which individual councillors would be pleased to subscribe. This was done with the result that the owner will receive £13, £3 more than had been suggested

1932 01 25

The ‘White Ribbon’ Coffee House and Temperance Hotel in East Road has been taken over by the Salvation Army. After redecorating it will be run as a hostel and restaurant providing good refreshment and lodgings for 40 men at a reasonable charge. 32 01 25

1932 02 15

Of all the memorable gatherings which have been held in the Drill Hall, East Road, none has ever come up to the vast assembly which gathered when the Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades’ Association held its first reunion dinner. When they arrived at Southampton 17 years ago one NCO said: “It’s taken three trains to get us here, a carriage will be enough to get us back”. That prediction came true! A silent toast was drunk to the 900 officers and men who fell in the Great War. 32 02 15

1932 03 05

Magistrates refused to relicence the Bowling Green public house, High Street, Chesterton. The landlord said a billiard room had been re-decorated, he had regular customers and it had become more

or less an institution. But there had been a decrease in trade, despite the growing estate nearby. The Maypole in Portugal Place was the headquarters of the Whippet Club; the tenant was 70 years of age and his only means of support would be the old-age pension. This together with the Alhambra in East Road, the Eagle Tavern beerhouse in Victoria Road and the Clarendon Arms was relicenced. 32 03 05 & a

1932 06 04

A new Cambridge Guildhall should be built on the corner of East Road and Parkside where the site is three times as large, meeting the requirements of the Corporation for many years. The existing Guildhall on Market Hill should be replaced with shops on the ground floor and offices and flats above, councillors have recommended. 32 06 04a, 06a, 06aa

1933 07 07

The Carlton public house in Lensfield Road owned by Lacons brewery had seen an increase in trade following the Budget decrease. There had been no complaints about the tenant, Edward Bettsworth, who was getting a living and wanted to retain it. Its licence was renewed but not those of the Coach and Horses on Newnham Road or the Alhambra on East Road where there were five other pubs within 220 yards and the trade was decreasing. 33 07 07 p12

1934 02 26

Play performed in Bloy's smithy, East Road – 34 02 26

1935 03 07

S.A. Rolfe's wholesale confectioners and tobacconists business started 25 years ago in a very small way on East Road. Now it is the largest of its kind in the Eastern Counties with nine full-time travellers and 15 motor vans. New premises in Newmarket Road house an enormous variety of brands including chocolates from R.S. Murray and 'Classic' bottle sweets made by Messrs Parkes. Mr Rolfe was hailed as a hard-working and keen young business man who by sheer determination and grit had made his mark in his chosen trade. 35 03 07, 35 03 09 & a

1936 01 08

An amazing roof collapse awakened residents in Broad Street, East Road, shortly after midnight. When they rushed into the street they found that the whole of the roof of a storehouse and garage belonging to Messrs Whitehead, the fruiterers, had crashed down on the contents of the building. It is thought the long-continued rain and damp weather may have affected the wooden beams. One of the three lorries in the building had the engine badly knocked about and some boxes of fruit were smashed by beams and tiles. It is said that when the old All Saints Church opposite St John's College was pulled down, the stone was auctioned off and many loads of it went into the building of this storehouse 36 01 08

1937 03 05

Magistrates heard that the Old Guinea public house in Russell Street was owned by the Star Brewery who had redecorated it and fitted a new fire and sink. There were seven fully-licensed houses and two off-licences within 400 yards. The Burleigh Arms in Burleigh Street was a beerhouse which provided a living for the tenant who found great difficulty in getting any work. The Rabbit in Gold Street was a comfortable little house; it had two extremely nice trade rooms and Green King had put in new windows. The residents of East Road might be 'scared off' a big place. The Cross Keys in Saxon Street was the only beer house in the neighbourhood which had five fully-licences housed within 400 yards. Beer was drawn straight from the wood, which was an attraction and trade was good. 37 03 05j

1937 12 13

A new police and fire station should be erected at Parkside, between Warkworth Terrace and East Road. The site is a very central one, had the great advantage of good access and egress from a fire-fighting point of view and the area is adequate for present and future requirements, councillors were

told. Bearing in mind the possible future requirements for protection against air raids it was desirable that both police and fire stations should be in one unit on a new site 37 12 13

1938 05 30

S.A. Rolfe's wholesale tobacconist and confectioners business began in a very small way in East Road, in 1911. Now it is the largest in the Eastern Counties employing nine full-time travellers. In March 1935 they moved to Newmarket Road where the stock is kept in perfect condition and its 20 motor vans can be loaded completely under cover. They cover a territory reaching as far as Clacton, Frinton-on-Sea, Peterborough and Luton conveying tons of tobacco every day. All leading brands are stocked including R.S. Murray (chocolates and confectionary) and Messrs Parkes 'Classic' boiled sweets – Advert. 38 05 30b

1938 07 28

Plans for a new police and fire station on Parkside between Warkworth Terrace and East Road came before an Inspector. It was a central site with good access for engine and ambulances and suitable for future requirements. It comprised five houses with a pork pie factory behind. But owners, Peterhouse, did not want to sell. They were concerned about noise at night and some undesirable 'guests' at the police station reducing the value of adjacent property. 38 07 28

1938 09 29

Cambridge prepares for influx of evacuees; sandbags piled outside East Road drill hall 38 09 29bb

1938 10 21

A.R. Nichols and Son, butchers on the corner of Petty Cury and Guildhall Street notify customers that owing to building reconstruction in Petty Cury they are temporarily carrying on their business at their East Road shop and also at a stall on Market Hill 38 10 21

1938 10 28

The Cambridge & County Girls School started in 1900 in the Drill Hall, East Road, then known as the Technical Institute. By 1903 they overflowed into rooms belonging to the Zion Chapel Sunday School and it was not until 1909 that they moved to the present buildings, retiring headmistress, Miss Dovey said. But in August 1914, when war broke out, the school was taken possession of by the Welsh Fusiliers and other regiments. For a year the school was housed in Emmanuel College lecture rooms and St Andrew's Street Sunday School. Soon they would move to new premises in Long Road 38 10 28 & a

1938 12 10

The Home of Mercy dates back to 1836 when residents concerned about the lack of provision for women, hired Dover House in East Road as a place of refuge. Then in 1838 the Cambridge Female Refuge opened in Christchurch Street in which girls who have fallen into evil ways can receive Christian guidance and discipline in a home-like atmosphere. Last year nine left to go into service and four were returned to their parents. One was baptised and three received Confirmation. 38 12 10b & c

1939 01 20

Wards on East Road was originally a cycle business, producing Crown bikes, then came a wireless department and baby carriages, electrical installations and fittings – 39 01 20

1939 12 23

Daguerreotype photographs were expensive and it was not until 1851 that a cheaper process came along. This was the collodion positive invented by Mr F. Scott Archer of Bishop's Stortford who died in 1857. These were framed portraits on glass and they were made in thousands at feasts in Cambridgeshire villages and on the beach at the seaside. One of the most notable makers was a Cambridge man called Dick Hutchinson who lived somewhere on the East Road and worked Yarmouth beach every summer. He had no studio in Cambridge. 39 12 23a

1942 09 24

A.E. Stearn started as grocer in East Road in Jan 1893; in 1908 wholesale side transferred to Fitzroy Street where carried on by sons. – 42 09 24

1943 08 12

Mrs Clarke, 50 East Road grows tomatoes in front garden – photo – 43 08 12

1946 03 09

J.H. Bullock remembers that 'Priory' site was nothing but a grass field unbuilt on below the Old Abbey House with a few houses at the top of Walnut Tree Lane. Down East Road one of main sewers discharged into river; storm may have caused back-up which flooded Dover St – 46 03 09a

1948 09 11

When the East Road Boys' Club reopens in its new premises behind the St John's Mission Church in Wellington Street, Cambridge, another year of really constructive work by its members will have begun. This club has proved what great feats can be accomplished when a team of boys learn to work together and understand their responsibilities to the community and club. The boys' ages range from 14 to 18 and their programme is designed to create a balance in their physical, spiritual and mental development. During the past year, for example, they won the Pointer Cup for boxing. It is run entirely by voluntary effort and has a membership of 100 boys.

1949 10 06

The proposal to buy St John's hall, Wellington St, Cambridge, for use as the East Road Boys' Club was criticised. The building was described as "a filthy hovel, scheduled for demolition and without sun and air", part had been condemned as unsafe some years ago. "It is a place I would not want to put pigs in", said Coun. Dennard. Mrs Rackham agreed it was a poor neighbourhood, but thought it would take years and years for the whole of the district to be demolished

1950 10 09

Girls in their teens, middle aged women and some in their sixties mingled together at a jubilee reunion of the Cambridgeshire High School for Girls. For many it was their first visit to the new school in Long Road. Their own memories took them back to the Drill Hall in East Road, where the school began, or to the Collier Road premises, now the Technical College and School of Art. The happy times spent there were recalled often during the evening.

1952

Crowds lining Parker's Piece saw a free but unofficial rodeo with policemen in the role of cowboys. Three crossbred steers on their way to the killing pens escaped from Winton Smith's slaughterhouse in East Road, Cambridge. Off they went with the slaughterhouse men in pursuit. On the Piece they charged about for half an hour. Police formed a barricade but one of the animals charged a sergeant and chased a motorcycle. When they were finally cornered a lady in a red dressing gown opened her door and put out a bowl of water for them.

1952 11 12

Ninety-one percent of the properties in the East Road area of Cambridge fell into the "short life" or "no life" categories the Development Plan inquiry was told. The area as a whole was described as "densely packed". The age of the houses was about 100 years, they were generally poorly constructed and the worst property in Cambridge lay in the area. The plan envisages using Norfolk Street as a local shopping centre to keep East Road free for a traffic route. But Mr S.P. Yarrow, retail grocer at 35 East Road said that if he went to Norfolk Street his turnover would be cut by half. B.G. Reynolds of Renbro Wireless Services, East Road, said he had one of the best positions in the area and business would go down if he moved. They did not see why two shops in East Road should impede the flow of traffic.

1953 01 14

Work on the roundabout at East Road corner with Newmarket Road, Cambridge, has been in progress for about five weeks; it is hoped it will be completed in another six. Before long the traffic lights will be removed and the centre of the junction will be sealed off so that the roundabout can be erected. Traffic will still be able to use the crossing, as by then the road surface at the corners will have been filled in.

1953 06 13

A spy wandering the streets of Cambridge on Thursday night would not have stood a chance. Three patrols, each in charge of an officer and NCO of the Cambs Home Guard patrolled the East Road area and collared five suspects, amongst whom were two spies. A slenderly-built, quietly dressed brunette was stopped by a patrol who found a flaw in her identity card and she was taken away in a car to Battalion H.Q. This was, of course, an exercise but in a real emergency Cambridge people need not worry about spies wandering the streets of the city.

1953 12 12

Nearly 500 people attended one of the most looked-forward to and popular functions of the year, the Dustman's Christmas Ball in Cambridge Guildhall. Dustbins were displayed on the stage behind the Astrals All Star Dance Orchestra, reminding the dancers of the occasion. Miss Daphne Frostick of East Road was chosen as the new "Queen of Scavengeria". The cabaret was amusing and skilful with four men and four girls entering into a ballet. Although the men were a little less graceful than their partners they gave a performance that will long be remembered, but whether for its precision or other factors we will not say

1954 01 19

Cambridge councillors recommend the purchase of half-an-acre of land fronting East Road owned by Herbert Robinson Ltd for £5,420. Jesus College lands, consisting of a reading room and 59-63 East Road (lock-up garages, stable and land off Staffordshire Street) will be bought for £5,710. The trustees of John Stanley have inquired whether the council desires to purchase vacant land in Gas Lane and Jesus College has asked about nos.18-28 Staffordshire Street. An architect with experience of the type of development contemplated will be asked to prepare plans of the detailed lay-out of the area

1954 01 22

Proposals to erect traffic lights at the junction of East Road and Newmarket Road, Cambridge were debated by councillors. One said: "Lights are not needed here; they are an obstruction and an annoyance to drivers, another added: "The speed of traffic is about half of other towns and now we are proposing to slow it up still further". A roundabout would be better than lights. But another said: "As a cyclist I am conscious of danger every time I pass the junction, which is blind in more than one direction, you have to be darned quick or you are dead"

1954 12 01

Cambridge councillors suggest that 20 cottages fronting to East Road, 18 of which are empty, should be developed as soon as possible by the erection of flats. Under the new Development Plan East Road would become a trunk road and with the construction of the Chesterton Bridge the amount of traffic would greatly increase. This would cause a considerable widening and the possible construction of dual carriageways which would leave very little of the site of the cottages available for development.

1955 05 02

The stretch of Newmarket Road between East Road corner and Ivett and Reed's shop has high accident rates and publicity is being given to the dangers of the road. 'Accident Area' and 'Caution' signs are being displayed and posters and leaflets distributed. Last year in Cambridge 604 people were injured and a total of 1,540 accidents were reported to the police. 55 05 02a

1956 06 29

Cambridge has 1,350 dwellings unfit for human habitation including 100 in the East Road, Gothic and Doric Street areas. The Council is to submit proposals for the demolition of 500 dwellings in the next five years and the remainder within the following seven. But three condemned cottages at Brookside in Toft have been reinstated by the Cottage Improvement Society and now make a charming group in this beautiful yet little known corner of the village. 55 06 29

1956 02 10

East Road demolition – 56 02 10a & b

1956 03 21

Councillors want to acquire land at Coldham's Lane to resite existing industry from the East Road and Lion Yard area. Previously the land's only use was agricultural but there would be no difficulty in selling the land for industry. There had been plans for housing development on the north side of Church End but would probably now never take place. The present houses in Rosemary Lane were on cesspools and the council put in a foul sewer. 56 03 21a-d

1956 04 19

An enquiry heard that Cambridge city council had wanted to purchase land at the junction of Fitzroy Street and Wellington Street, pull down the old houses and use the land to re-site industry displaced from the East Road area. They offered to pay the current price but the owner, a former chairman of the Council's Finance Committee, said that if the land had potential for light industry then the price should be higher. Eventually negotiations broke down. Now he applied to redevelop the area, but the council opposed his plans. 56 04 19a & b

1956 06 23

A wall of a house at Parker Terrace, East Road is in such 'alarming condition' it is in danger of collapsing on nearby property. There was a large bulge in the centre of the wall, hanging five inches over the foundations, but the elderly lady occupying it is unwilling to move. The owner was ordered to have it demolished or repaired within 21 days. 56 06 23b

1956 07 23

Councillors received a report on the redevelopment of the East Road comprehensive development area. The first stage provides for 51 dwellings – maisonettes, flats and houses – to house 206 people, as well as six shops and seven garages. Two more stages will see 212 dwellings, housing 737 people. There will be a district heating scheme from a central boiler house for the supply of hot water throughout the estate. 56 07 23a

1956 09 08

Great progress has been made since the devastating fire which destroyed more than half the factory of Corrugated Fittings of Burwell last April. Temporary buildings and even a marquee have been utilised, printers have dug ditches, engineers have loaded lorries and girls have taken apart and repainted machinery, redecorated and helped in cleaning up. Messrs MacKay of East Road have sourced the country for sufficient steel sections to allow rebuilding in time for new machinery. 56 09 08d

1957 07 18

School House Lane off East Road garage appeal – 57 07 18

1957 09 05

Plans to use five two-storey dwellings in East Road for storage and business purposes were turned down. The buildings were occupied and producing an annual income of £60 but the Council wanted to serve demolition orders to get the site for road improvements without fair compensation. The Minister said that East Road was narrow and attracted heavy traffic. It was to be widened but such use would add seriously to the present congestion. 57 09 05

1958 01 16

Percy John Todd was apprenticed to the scale and weighing machine trade at the firm of Headley and Edwards. In 1931 he started Todd's Scale Work on East Road and was the senior partner until his death. In his younger days he played for the Cambridge Victoria and Cambridge Hotspurs Football Clubs and ran with the Albert Institute Harriers. 58 01 16a

1958 03 11

East Road district heating plan abandoned – 58 03 11

1958 09 25

An inquiry into plans for the compulsory purchase and clearance orders affecting 67 houses in East Road, Fitzroy Street, Adam and Eve Street and Gloucester Terrace heard from three objectors. Mr J.N. Baldry had plans to develop his site in connection with his mineral water business. But the Medical Officer said the area contained some of the worst houses in Cambridge: they were all unfit and clearance would serve the interests of public health. 58 09 25

1958 12 16

Cambridge City Libraries' annual staff dinner and party was held in the Guildhall. Librarian, Eric Cave recalled they had closed 'that museum piece, the East Road Reading Room and the Ditton Fields Sub-Branch while sub-branches at Cherry Hinton and Trumpington had more to better accommodation. The Libraries were much appreciated and he looked forward to their continued progress. Games, dancing and entertainment followed organised by J.W. Franklin, L.J. Horspool, C.C. Marsh, R.J. Tarrant and Miss B.K. Wadsworth. 58 12 16b

1959 06 03

Winton-Smith, the Cambridge butchers, have been looking for a site for a new, modernised slaughterhouse to replace the one they own in East Road. They have chosen a site in Haslingfield but there are objections from residents and so a public inquiry was held. 59 06 03

1959 08 20

Mackays of East Road has donated a Blackstone horizontal diesel engine to Freetown, Sierra Leone. The engine was first installed in 1930 and gave them complete independence to power cuts. It ran throughout the war with virtually no maintenance. They have completed the electrification of their plant and John Mellanby, the well-known Cambridge electrician, suggested it be offered to the Technical Institute over there. Similar engines have been working at Heffers printing works and Coulson's wood mill. 59 08 20

1959 09 30

The area between East Road, Norfolk Street and St Matthew's Street comprises narrow streets and courts of dwellings of the demolition standard, creating a general impression of decay. The whole area should be demolished and rebuilt, the Surveyor told an Inquiry. Every house in Staffordshire Street was damp, some roofs are sunken and some water closets are across the street from the houses they serve. But many owners objected to plans for compulsory purchase. 59 09 30c & d

1960 03 12

The Minister has confirmed compulsory purchase orders concerning houses in Norfolk Street which the City Council are anxious to pull down for the second stage of the East Road redevelopment scheme. The area affected was generally dilapidated, over-crowded and of a demolition standard with some of the buildings giving a general impression of decay. Now they can go ahead with erecting new houses, flats and shops 60 03 12

1960 03 25

Three new major building projects are all progressing satisfactorily. The first storey of at least one building on the Churchill College site is already visible from Madingley Road. The cast iron arches of the old Garret Hostel Lane Bridge have been removed with a temporary wooden structure erected over the river. In East Road the scheme for redeveloping a large area previously occupied with

derelict buildings is rapidly taking shape. Maisonettes will be constructed in the first stage followed by shops, flats, roads and houses. 60 03 25d

1960 12 17

Hills Road railway bridge is functioning almost as normal again. After a year's work during which the traffic has had to contend with considerable difficulties, the road is now suitable for two-lane traffic. Resurfacing will not be carried on for another 12 months in order to allow for subsidence and for several more weeks workmen will be patching up. Work on Churchill College continues as does work on 13 three-storey terrace houses and 60 maisonettes at East Road. Most have their roofs on and one block of houses has its windows in. 60 12 17b

1961 07 08

By 1966 it is hoped that the new trunk-road linking the main Cambridge-London and Cambridge-Newmarket Roads will have been fully operational for some years. East Road would then be carrying about 1,000 vehicles an hour and Winton-Smith applied to build a petrol station in place of their slaughter house. But planners told an Inquiry that it would interfere with the free flow of traffic and cause confusion for motorists 61 07 08

1961 08 24

Motorists are quick to seize every chance that comes their way of finding a parking space for their cars. Already several have made the most of the opportunity provided by the demolition work in Adam and Eve Street. Vehicles now stand where a row of cottages used to exist. The buildings were cleared as part of the City Council's redevelopment scheme in the East Road district 61 08 24a

1961 09 08

Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Territorial Association are examining aerial photographs at the new Air Photo Interpretation Centre at the Drill Hall in East Road. Until April they were a Motor Transport Company and when reorganised were divided into two sections with the other studying signals at Coldham's Lane. The women have to sign on for two years and receive full army pay with an annual bounty of ten guineas. Uniforms are given and they train each Monday evening. But it is difficult if there are small children for in wartime the T.A. are the first to be called up. 61 09 08b

1961 11 21

Two silver birch trees transported by road to the new block of flats in East Road – 61 11 06a
The proposed new Cambridge fire station on the corner of Parkside and East Road is without doubt the best situation that could be found. It is on the immediate perimeter of the inner congested centre of Cambridge, has access to good routes and is well-placed to take advantage of the proposed new bridge over the Cam. It will replace the present fire station built in 1944 at the corner of Newmarket Road and Coldham's Lane which consists of war-time huts and brick structures on the site of a refuse pit. 61 11 21a

1962 05 03

An inquiry into the Bradmore Street area heard that 119 houses between Petersfield, East Road, Broad Street and the CCAT were unfit for human habitation and should be demolished under the slum clearance plan. The area would be used for extensions to the college and the Mill Road Sorting Office. But six householders objected. One lady had lived in her home for 50 years, she was 89 and blind and would find it difficult to move. Another had been deaf and dumb from birth; she had lived there for 54 years and was frightened at the prospect of being relocated. 62 05 03a

1962 09 11

Army Cadet HQ in East Road demolished – move to Drill Hall – 62 09 11a

1962 09 26

Cambridge Amateur Boxing Club is seeking for a piece of land on which it can build a gymnasium in place of their headquarters in Henley Road. They have more new members than at any time in their history and have collected over £2,000 towards a new building which will include kitchen and seating accommodation. In addition the club's President, Arthur Cooper, has promised a brand new £100 ring. The season opens with a fixture against the University at the Corn Exchange with another in the Drill Hall, East Road 62 09 26b

1962 12 07

John Shrive had osier beds at Horningsea and Fen Ditton until he died 40 years ago, employing five men to grow and cut them with bundles kept moist in the Green End ditch until needed. Most of the women of Fen Ditton were employed in peeling or cleaving on a casual basis, sitting on each side of the road with their bundles beside them. Stripped osiers were collected by horse and cart then taken to Mr Shrive's workshop in East Road where they were woven into baskets to be sold from his shop on Peas Hill. School reports up to 1912 list frequent absenteeism with children 'helping with rod peeling' 62 12 07a

1963 07 31

St George's Church of England Secondary School opened in 1835 with separate departments for senior boys and girls. For 100 years it was called East Road School until the infants section closed in 1931. Pupils will attend other secondary schools until new premises are built on a site in St George's parish. The old school will be rebuilt to house the St Matthew's Infants School 63 07 31a

1963 09 04

East Road, once a narrow, cluttered thoroughfare, is gradually being improved; photo of new works adjacent to the widened East Road carriageway 63 09 04c

1963 10 02

Part of the East Road dual carriageway is now open. 63 10 02

1963 10 03

More and more Cambridge people are rejecting the idea of a three-bedroomed house and there is a growing demand for small, one or two bedroomed units. Brookfields, on East Road, should consist entirely of these types of property and be supplemented by development at the junction of Carlton Way. The improvement and conversion of the older type of pre-war council houses should be advanced at all speed, councillors were told. They will draw up proposals for the redevelopment of aluminium bungalows at Church End, Cherry Hinton 63 10 03

1963 11 14

Headquarters of the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Territorial Army may move from Ipswich to Bury or Newmarket. The Drill Hall in East Road may close 63 11 14a

1964 03 04

Houses in Walnut Tree Avenue have been bought by the Ministry of Transport for demolition when the dual-carriageway for the proposed Chesterton bridge route is constructed. One side of Cam Road will also have to be demolished. It is expected that negotiations for the 30 properties involved will take a year to complete. The first part of the scheme will link Newmarket Road with Chesterton and Milton Roads. Later the existing roads of Lensfield Road, Gonville Place and East Road will feed into a roundabout at the junction of Sun Street and Newmarket Road 64 03 04b

1964 08 28

The Lion Yard area is badly laid out and contains 'obsolete development'; there should be a small increase in shopping space with the rest devoted to civic and university uses, Sir Keith Joseph, the Minister of Housing says. A brand new shopping area should be created in the City Road area – the present twilight zone. It will take traffic away from the centre, cater for modern supermarket trends and fit in with plans for the continuation of the East Road housing scheme 64 08 28, 28b

1964 09 01

Ward & sons, radio, bicycle and pram dealer to move from East Road to Burleigh St – 64 09 01

1965 03 11

Ward's move to new premises in Burleigh Street marks another stage in the long history of a firm which started when Jonas Ward made a living mending bicycles in East Road. For some time they made the famous Crown cycles, one of which was ridden from Cambridge to Monte Carlo in 1930. They also supplied carrier cycles and box tricycles. Later they diversified into wireless, gramophones, washing machines and baby carriages and became one of the first to stock televisions in 1938. – 65 03 11a, b

1968 12 09

Walter Easy drives Cambridge taxis for 50 years; was provincial car company in 190 which started at old tram depot in East Road; father one of first to have motor transport – T-model Ford, later motor-cycle taxis – details – 68 12 09

1969 05 20

East Road roundabout planted with flowers – photo – 69 05 20

1970 01 14

Simon community derelict pub on East Road taken over as place of refuge is to close – 70 01 14

1970 05 28

Fire Serck Services radiator firm, East Road – 70 05 28

1971 06 17

Toilet at East Road – Mill Road junction being demolished – 71 06 17a

1971 12 07

Mackay plans to extend engineering factory and build more shops and offices on East Road blocked – 71 12 07a

1972 06 09

The family firm of D. Mackay, Britannia Works, East Road, Cambridge, celebrate their 60th year jubilee this week. The Britannia Public house from which the works took its name has recently been demolished, and the houses which formed Britannia Place have long since disappeared, as has the Smith which stood in the public house yard. Many other landmarks have been swept away in the new Roadworks. It used to be said that by standing at the corner of East Road and Newmarket Road one would be sure to meet one's friends. Now it is difficult to see which is the corner, and the traffic roars past too fast for leisurely greetings

1972 06 15

People living in Norfolk Street and Gwydir Street made it clear at a meeting in Cambridge that they want some peace and quiet - and soon. They want to be able to park their cars free outside their own homes and are calling for rapid police action to enforce parking bans in the area. Half the 1,400 vehicles recorded during a 13-hour period were using the narrow roads in the area as a short cut between Mill Road and East Road

1972 11 23

Billy the Kid, fresh from his latest brush with the law, stood in a makeshift office in the derelict, boarded-up pub in East Road that is the Cyrenian's haven for dossers in Cambridge and threw down a challenge. "I'll bet you", he said in the most confidential of tones, "that I can pick up in Cambridge as much in one week as ever you can earn". Now Billy the Kid's reputation among the "touchers" of Cambridge stands high. Billy the Kid is the city's uncrowned king and no sane man would ever doubt

his begging ability. "Well", I queried, playing safe, "I might be interested". "You've got to beat 75-quid and most of that is from the students"

1972 12 08

An estimated 2,000 people turned up for the first day's trading at the Marcade, Cambridge's first indoor market. The Marcade is the brainchild of two city businessmen, one of whom said "We have spoken to every trader today and most of them have said they have taken as much in five hours today as they usually take in a week" There are 48 stands in the market, which is in the old Eastern Electricity buildings in East Road and they hope to have a total of 100 by January. "The whole idea is to make it a good market where someone can buy anything at competitive prices and of good quality". They were aiming at a market where a customer could buy everything from a kitchen sink to a fur coat, said Mr Smith

1973 11 19

The cost of bringing the White Ribbon Hotel at East Road, Cambridge up to the standard needed to meet fire safety regulations and public health requirements now about £4,000 – nearly three times the amount originally estimated. Until last April the hotel was run by the Salvation Army as a hostel for city working men with no family roots. But, because of the high cost of maintaining the building and bringing it up to the new standards, the Salvation Army moved out and the County council took over the building. Cambridge city council have told the county that they will not pay any more than £750.

1974 02 08

Cambridge city council's controversial plan to stop Gwydir Street being used as a short-cut between East Road and Mill road has come into action and already shopkeepers are reporting trading losses of up to 50%. Norfolk street, once continually busy with traffic, is now silent and virtually at a standstill. And the shopkeepers of the street are beginning to wonder if they might soon be at a standstill too. Mrs Linda Gregoris who owns the Athena restaurant lent on her broom and surveyed the five customers. "It is 11am and normally this place is chock-a-block and people have to fight for a seat. Yesterday we had five people in here – normally it would be as many as 80"

1974 07 06

The White Ribbon Hostel, in Cambridge, which provides accommodation for nearly 30 single men with no family backgrounds, may soon be run jointly by Cambridgeshire County and Cambridge City Councils. Until 18 months ago the Salvation Army ran the hostel at East Road. But rising costs and the prospects of having to pay thousands of pounds to bring it up to the new fire safety standards led them to hand over the project.

1974 08 02

The White Ribbon hostel in East Road, Cambridge, which provides a home for 30 working men with no family backgrounds, has been declared a great fire hazard by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. For many years the hostel was run by the Salvation Army but they were forced to give up when the high cost of bringing the building up to fire safety standards was discovered last year. The building was then run by Cambridgeshire Mental Welfare Association. But because of other commitments, they have handed over the administration to the county council. Eventually the authorities hope to replace the old buildings with new ones. But no swift action is likely in rebuilding because of the present serious shortage of money in local government circles.

1975 03 25

Cambridge pubs range from grimy to gracious according to a drinker's guide just published by a group of undergraduates. Grime, according to the guide, is synonymous with the Locomotive pub in Mill Road, and grace is one of the virtues of the Plough Inn at Fen Ditton. Praise is lavished on the "thematic scheme" of the Galleon bar in the Burleigh Arms, Newmarket Road. The Free Press has "exceptional character" and the Baker's Arms, East Road, is called a "refreshing surprise". The Bun Shop, Downing Street is said to be "something of a Cambridge institution and well worth a visit"

1975 05 22

Twelve traders at the Marcade in East Road, Cambridge, were each fined up to £10 for serving customers on a Sunday. The charges arose from an undisclosed complaint on the Sunday before Christmas and a visit to the covered market by a public health officer and three inspectors. One of the traders said he carried out a survey on the same Sunday and discovered 17 other shops open and selling goods contravening the law. They were giving a public service on the run-up to Christmas and were surprised other shops doing the same thing were not prosecuted.

1975 09 01

Stallholders at the Marcade, East Road, Cambridge, were today counting the cost of a blaze which gutted the indoor market on Saturday night, destroying more than £100,000 worth of stock. The fire was first spotted at about 11.45pm and within half an hour the market was a raging inferno as clothes, antiques, records and household goods went up in flames and asphalt and glass sections of the roof began to cave in. The Marcade was opened two and a half years ago and many of the stallholders were just beginning to build up a profitable livelihood.

1976 01 24

The fire risk and crumbling condition of the building at the Cambridge Cyrenian's community short stay hostel for down-and-outs in East Road has added new urgency to their eight-year search for new premises. The chairman said: The building itself, the bricks and wood, are falling to pieces. You could pour £5,000 into it and achieve nothing. The dozen men living in the hostel all sleep downstairs because of the difficulty of evacuating in an emergency

1976 03 17

One of Cambridge's best-known characters, Trevor Hughes, was rescued by firemen from a blazing room in a derelict house in East Road. He was found choking in a smoke-filled room at the back of the old headquarters of the Cyrene Community. Trevor, the elder statesman of the Cambridge dossier community, is well-known to shoppers in the Market Square where he sits daily by the fountain 1976

1977 09 30

The newsagents business of Lokers on East Road has been something of a landmark since Dobbie Loker founded the firm in 1861. They have come a long way, expanding from a little paper shop to one of the biggest wholesalers in the area and providing books, paperbacks, toys and other sundries as well as stationery for the newsagents of Cambridge. They were the last shop to leave the south side of East Road during redevelopment. Ten years ago they decided to concentrate on wholesale trade and look for new accommodation. They have now moved to Severn Place.

1977 10 20

Take the dull and empty expanse of East Road roundabout in Cambridge, combine it with the recent clamour for a city skateboard park and the result is a plan which has just won Cambridge architect Keith Garbett and artist Jon Harris first place in a national competition. The idea incorporates a "pipe" with a viewing platform above where spectators can watch skateboarders emerge from a tunnel, a bowl with an up-and-down return slope and a slalom slope where skateboarders can weave in and out of rubber bollards. The Mayor said he would be happy to see the plan go before council officials for consideration but would it attract children to a busy junction and might impede its real purpose which is to let people cross the road safely

1978 10 13

The Varsity Handbook's pub guide includes a bitter attack on several Cambridge pubs. At The Horse and Groom, King Street it claims "the beer is foul, the bar dirty and the landlord unpleasant". The Pickerel, Magdalene Street, fares little better: "Foul place, selling foul beer and swamped by inhabitants of a certain nearby college". Whitbread pubs in particular come in for a bad time: "Why does Whitbread charge so much money for their freezing cold fizzy beer", it asks. But it likes the Baker's Arms, East Road - "friendly and near a fish and chip shop"

1979 02 26

One of the longest-serving landlords in Cambridge is Noel Archdeacon and his wife Hannah Mae of the Cow and Calf public house on Pound Hill. They are particularly well-known to their Irish regulars, several of whom were customers at their two previous Cambridge pubs, both of which have disappeared. The Britannia in East Road was demolished years ago and The Swan in Norfolk Street is now a private house. Their present pub has belatedly had a complete internal facelift and now has one large lounge where there is plenty of room for the new pool table.

1979 04 27

What is claimed to be the largest cycle shop in Cambridge, with a stock of thousands of new and used machines has opened on the corner of East Road and Norfolk Street. The new shop – ‘Thakes – the Cycle King’ – is the fourth in a rapidly-growing string owned by Nick Thake who calls himself ‘the 27-year-old work maniac’. His other shops are in the London suburban and Southend areas. It will offer discounts of up to 50 per cent with a guarantee of rapid service and total satisfaction and also specialise in finding parts for very old cycles or obscure foreign makes

1981 07 20

Mr Ben Sharpe, who drove the last Cambridge horse tram, has died aged 86. It was on 18th February 1914 that he took a single-decker tram on its last ceremonial journey from its East Road depot to King’s Parade. Within the year public transport was motorised and most of the men who had manned the horse trams were in France with the British Expeditionary Force. Mr Sharp served with the Cambridgeshire Regiment and was both wounded and gassed. Afterwards he worked for the Ortona Omnibus Company and later Eastern National operating between Cambridge and Bedford. 81 07 20

1981 10 09

Wards have been in Cambridge for more than 70 years, originally making and selling cycles. By the 1930s they were involved in electronics, making their own wireless receiver, the Wards Three Valve. In the 1950s they expanded into communications, selling televisions and other electronic equipment, moving from East Road to a new shop in Burleigh Street in 1965 with another in Bradwell’s Court. At its peak in the 1970s they won contracts with Iraq and the Defence Ministry. Now it will close for the last time. 81 10 09d

1981 11 05

Shocked traders at Cambridge’s Beaumont Centre in East Road have been given notice to quit, just weeks before Christmas. The indoor market, which was gutted by fire six years ago and reopened after a £100,000 facelift, is to be closed down and demolished. Now they are desperately searching for new premises to try and keep their businesses going. 81 11 05a

1982 10 04

Children from St Matthew’s Primary School joined a raincoated march protesting against the proposed East Road dual carriageway which would take part of their playground. They stopped outside the Grafton Information Centre, which has supported the County Council’s plans, for some orchestrated slogan shouting. About 250 marchers gathered at Parker’s Piece expressing concern about increased noise, lead pollution and the danger to children posed by the ‘road to nowhere’. 82 10 04a

1983 02 16

Cambridge is rapidly becoming one of the country’s leading computer centres. The latest to enter the fray is Herald Computers of East Road. They are convinced there is a gap in the market for tailor-made systems designed to help small businesses choose the right computer and programmes for their particular purposes and so their activities will be outside the range of the man-in-the-street. 83 02 16

1983 05 17

Cambridge Working Men’s Club’s 100-year old existence is in doubt because the city and county councils cannot agree on its resiting. Grosvenor Developments who built the Grafton Centre, offered

to pay £500,000 for it to be resited on ground a few yards away owned by the city council. But they will not sell because if it moves it will leave the way clear for the county council to go ahead with the widening of East Road which the Labour city council opposes. Now Grosvenor may withdraw its offer and leave ratepayers to foot the entire bill. 83 05 17 p20

1983 12 27

The controversial plan to finish the widening of East Road is to go ahead despite growing opposition. The County Council leader says nothing is going to stop them from completing the work. The City council claim the road is a waste of money and would have a serious and harmful effect on St Matthew's primary school. They have placed a tree preservation order on saplings growing in the school forecourt to prevent the county from starting to widen the road. But the county claim this is illegal and challenged it in the High Court. 83 10 27 p11

1983 12 09

The Royal coat of arms on the old Drill Hall, East Road, is a work of art and may be saved when the building is demolished thanks to a change meeting 50 years ago. At that time Gordon Higgins was chatting to an elderly villager in Newton, Albert Prime, the man who made it. He had been a copper worker and raised the sign from a plate of copper 50 years earlier. He was taken to a yellow-painted hut – it was a Rip Van Winkle workshop; all the tools and templates were piled as if they had been there for 100 years. Now it will be preserved. 83 12 09 p16

1985 01 31

The Government's decision to allow the widening of East Road has been called 'a disaster for Cambridge' by City Councillors who oppose the plan. They feel widening would harm the environment and represent a health hazard for children at St Matthew's School, part of whose playing fields would be dug up. But County Council road engineers claim the plan to dual the final 400-yard stretch from Norfolk Street to Mill Road corner is an essential part of the city's traffic pattern and will be completed as soon as possible. 85 01 31

1985 03 11

A major shake-up to cope with the forecast massive increase in Cambridge traffic has been unveiled by the County Council. It suggests an underground car park at the Butts Green end of Midsummer Common and a new road following the main railway line with a new bridge over the Cam. There could be reconstruction of a number of major road junctions including East Road - Newmarket Road and at Hyde Park Corner with widening of dual carriageways and new cycleways. A park-and-ride system of new car parks linked to the centre by frequent buses is also proposed 85 03 11

1985 05 07

The new-look Cambridgeshire County Council may descend into political chaos unless a compromise over who works with whom can be worked out. The Liberal SDP Alliance with 26 seats is seeking a three-way administration with the Conservatives (29 seats) or the Labour with 21. But Labour has turned down the Alliance Plan and the Conservatives will agree to power sharing only if the new council accepts their financial policies. Controversial plans to widen East Road have been scrapped as has a railway-road plan which would have destroyed large housing and commercial areas of Cambridge. 85 05 07

1985 05 13

East Road widening plans scrapped after £1 million spent – 85 05 13

1985 06 26

For 50 years the name of F.H. Fry has been associated with scales and scale-making in Cambridge. It was started by Frederic Fry in East Road in 1935 and moved to Perowne Street in 1962. Now they have branched out to include cash registers, gravity-feed slicers and sausage fillers. Modern scales are so clever they can not only weigh and automatically calculate the price but they also check themselves

to see they are in working order. Yet despite all this progress a brass weight is used to check they are accurate. 85 06 26b

1985 10 24

Squatters who are being turned out of the derelict Thakes Cycle Shop on East Road are angry that the building will lie empty. It was bought by the County Council under a compulsory purchase order and was to have been demolished to make way for the controversial road widening scheme which has now been scrapped. It could still be pulled down to improve the road junction with Norfolk Street. The squatters had dreams of turning it into a social centre with a vegetarian café and crèche 85 10 24b

1985 12 02

Cambridge is counting the cost of a night of violence. Three policemen were injured and 13 police vehicles damaged during a three-hour confrontation with up to 300 youths in East Road. Tempers flared and scuffles broke out as would-be revellers tried to enter the former Thakes cycle shop for a party with a disco and a band. The building had been purchased by the County Council and was due to be flattened to make way for a new dual carriageway, but the scheme was scrapped. Now it may be demolished as soon as possible 85 12 02

1985 12 10

Council chiefs are setting up an 'action squad' to in a bid to defuse mounting mob tension on the streets of Cambridge following a violent clash outside the former Thakes cycle shop on East Road. At a noisy meeting in the Guildhall more than 100 youngsters spelled out a simple desperate plea – give us somewhere to meet. Now the councillors will try to find a disused warehouse for them to convert into a late-night venue or set up an 'open house' building which they could use during the day. The unemployed workers' centre could also be put to more intensive use. 85 12 10a

1985 12 10

More than 200 young people entered the Rob Roy pub in Chesterton Road to hold a late-night disco. Sixty-five police prevented any more entering as toilet rolls, a chair and other pieces of furniture rained down. As there were no lights on, except for the disco light and with a crowd in excess of 200 police decided it would be unsafe to enter and clear the building. The pub had not been derelict but undergoing refurbishment and considerable damage was done to the upstairs room. It followed confrontation with several hundred youths outside the former Thakes cycle shop in East Road 85 12 10b

1987 09 03

Temporary traffic lights at the junction of Elizabeth Way roundabout with Newmarket Road and East Road have been switched on in an experiment to ease rush-hour congestion. 87 09 03

1988 05 12

From the moment the Grafton Centre opened in October 1983, everybody connected with it knew that it was too small at 300,000 sq feet. It was locked in by its location with the only real scope for expansion on the East Road side. This needed a deal with Coulsons, the long-established Cambridge builder. Retailers had reservations about the initial plans for a major new store built around Presto supermarket. It had been intended to provide the kind of balanced development considered important in the 1970s, but had never proved successful 88 05 12 & a

1988 06 02

Loker and Co. Cambridge newsagents since 1861, is to close as a result of sweeping changes in newspaper and magazine wholesaling. Moved from corner of East Road and School House Lane in 1977 – 88 06 02